

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended, without prejudice.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101**

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,513,019 (“the ’019 patent”). In view of the amendments to independent claim 1 presented herein, claim 1 no longer claims the same invention as claim 1 of the ’019 patent. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is overcome.

**Conclusion**

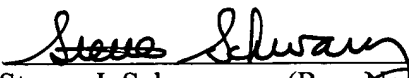
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of pending claims 1-22. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant’s undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Director is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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